



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
27TH FINANCE MANAGEMENT COMPANY
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150-74 6TH AVENUE
WHITESTONE, NEW YORK 11357-1299

TSFMCO-CDR

21 October 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR USAFINCOM CERTEX OSTs, FORT MCCOY, WI

SUBJECT: AAR 27th FMCO CERTEX 2008 (16 Oct 08 – 20 Oct08)

1. The purpose of this AAR from the 27th FMCO CERTEX 2008 (16 Oct 08 – 20 Oct08) at Fort McCoy, WI, is to provide feedback in which the CERTEX was able to provide realistic training to the deploying 27th FMCO. The overall CERTEX is definitely a necessity. The CERTEX had provided valuable and realistic Finance training with experienced OSTs who were highly professional and very knowledgeable subject matter experts. Most of the OSTs not only shared their learned finance knowledge, but they also shared their real world experiences and lessons learned from their deployments.
2. ISSUE: The length of the CERTEX should be extended beyond five (5) days.
 - a. Discussion: The CERTEX cannot touch upon every finance aspect in five (5) days. There were different finance applications introduced during this CERTEX. These applications may not have been new, but they were new to the unit because the unit did not use these applications before CERTEX.
 - b. Recommend the CERTEX to be maintained, but extended from five days to two weeks for not only deploying finance units, but also all finance units for realistic training purposes. The reason for extending the CERTEX is threefold; first, the extra time allows the unit to develop a battle rhythm, and second, corrections can be made during the exercise and implemented for re-evaluation, and lastly, Soldiers could be cross trained in various 44C tasks.
3. ISSUE: Pre Deployment Site Survey (PDSS) visit to their deploying AO.
 - a. DISCUSSION: The ability to have a PDSS visit to the unit and AO, which the 27th FMCO will be replacing, would have given the opportunity for the 27th FMCO to request a greater emphasis and focus on specific finance areas that may have needed additional training Pre-Mob and exercised during the CERTEX.
 - b. Email and phone contact was established with the unit down range, however, having firsthand knowledge of the required tasks will enable the deploying unit to better prepare for their wartime mission. Recommend all deploying Finance Management Companies be authorized a PDSS.
4. ISSUE: No formal Resource Management training pre-CERTEX.
 - a. DISCUSSION: Four (4) Soldiers did receive three (3) days of excellent Resource Management training when they were sent to Fort McCoy's Resource Management Office Budget Automation Branch at Bldg 1913 during the CERTEX. The Soldiers did receive actual real world training by civilian employees in different finance applications, automated systems, hands on training and an introduction to Resource Management's regulations, policies and guidance.
 - b. Recommend Resource Management training be included during the 23 day MOS Pre-Mobilization Training and evaluated during the CERTEX.
5. ISSUE: MILPAY and CVS Training.
 - a. DISCUSSION: Even though the FMCO MTOE does not have a dedicated MILPAY or CVS Section, the School House was proactive in recognizing the need to give the training in a Pre-Mob status, then evaluate the unit in those operations.

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b. Recommend continuing the MILPAY and CVS training to better prepare the FMCO in it's mission. Also recommend long term USAFINCOM consider identifying Soldiers on the MTOE for those additional duties since those positions are not organic to the organization.

6. ISSUE: Disbursement Training. OSTs were very knowledgeable and the training was excellent.

a. DISCUSSION: Very realistic training for the Cashiers, Certifier, DA, DDO and DO. DDS also had a real world error in the system, necessitating manual disbursement operations. The Certex provided a hands-on start-to-finish experience for Cashiers, DA, and DDO. Excellent knowledge and training for 1st time deployment of Finance Soldiers.

b. Recommend to continue CERTEX Disbursement training. OSTs showed the importance of paying attention to detail to prevent disbursement errors and balancing at the end of the day. Extending the length of the exercise will allow the section to develop a battle rhythm and hone their disbursing skills.

7. ISSUE: IMO/AUTOMATION Training. IMO/AUTOMATION had an excellent realistic training.

a. DISCUSSION: The IMO/AUTOMATION Section was able to work with the finance software, applications and programs.

b. Recommend to continue IMO/AUTOMATION CERTEX training.

8. ISSUE: Request for training or refresher training for finance applications or programs.

a. DISCUSSION: There is a need to have training and refresher for finance applications and programs, such as DJMS, DMO, etc.

b. Recommend to add training on Finance applications and programs, especially for personnel who haven't used these systems before.

9. ISSUE: Internal Control Training. The training was realistic and constructive.

a. DISCUSSION: The Internal Control received very good instructions. The IC Team was able to inspect every finance section, including the Supply section.

b. Recommend to continue the CERTEX Internal Control training. Very good instructions from the OST's that assisted in the IC Team inspections and briefing.

10. ISSUE: AUT Training.

a. DISCUSSION: The FMCO had limited knowledge regarding AUT. The AUT training was excellent and allowed the unit to identify, train, and assign a Soldier to that duty.

b. Recommend AUT training be added to the Pre-Mob training curriculum.

11. ISSUE: FINOPS Training.

a. DISCUSSION: FINOPS training was very realistic. The training showed areas to sustain and to improve. Good hands on training for FINOPS.

b. Recommend to continue the CERTEX FINOPS training. Very good instructions were received from the OST's showing the importance of FINOPS tracking, monitoring and being the hub for communications. Adding Ops specific training to the Pre-Mob training is highly recommended.

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12. Overall: This CERTEX is an excellent realistic training tool.

a. The 27th FMCO Soldiers were excited about the CERTEX from the very first moment the CERTEX kicked off. This CERTEX gave a glimpse of the real world day to day operations to the Soldiers and hands-on test of actual procedures.

b. The learning experience was high. The OSTs were excellent instructors/evaluators. OSTs shared their knowledge, experiences and lessons learned to all of the Soldiers. The OSTs knowledge was based upon their real world experiences of actual finance duties performed in the Area of Operations (AO) where the 27th FMCO will be mission.

c. The 27th FMCO has grown as a unit due to the exercise and the mentoring of the OST's. The 27th will be going into Theater much better prepared as a result of the CERTEX.

13. POC is the undersigned at (845) 742-3946 or email: george.p.wilcha@us.army.mil


GEORGE P. WILCHA
MAJ, FC, NYARNG
Commanding